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Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

RECORD SAND SHARK FOR NORTHERN WATERS.

An unusually large specimen of the Sand Shark (*Carcharias taurus*) was captured on August 25, 1921, by Captain Charles Hurd of Clinton, Connecticut. Captain Hurd had set his gill-net at the mouth of Clinton Harbor, especially for menhaden for lobster bait. The shark became entangled in the gill-net and was drawn up to the gunwale of the boat. He was still alive and put up a vigorous fight but was finally despatched by two or three blows from a large hickory club which Captain Hurd carries in his boat for just such purposes. The shark was then towed ashore and hauled out on the beach. Its estimated weight was 250 pounds and it measured 8 ft. 10 in. over all. The jaws were removed, partially cleaned and taken to the American Museum of Natural History. The specimen was a female, but was without young.

GEORGE H. SHERWOOD,
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SELAR, A GENUS OF CARANGOID FISHES.

The generic name *Selar* was first defined by Bleeker in Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl-Ind.-I.-1851 (1852) page 352, in a paper entitled: *Over Eenige nieuwe Geslachten en Soorten van makreelachtige Visschen van den Indischen Archipel.*

Selar is here defined in the following terms:—"Dentes supramaxillares et inframaxillares, uniseriati, aeguales. Dentes vomeris palatini linguales."

Bleeker further indicates a difference from *Decapterus* in the absence of finlets, and from *Caranx* proper in the longer body and straight profile. To this genus were referred "*Caranx plumieri* CV., *Caranx analis* CV., *Caranx djeddaba* Rup., etc." As Bleeker in this paper refers to work done at the "end of 1851 and the beginning of 1852," the actual date of the paper must be 1852, although in his own "Levensbericht" (1877), Bleeker places it at the head of his list of 1851.

In other papers of Bleeker of 1851 and 1852, published in the same journal (but all so far as I can ascertain of later date), I find the name *Selar* used in connection with other related species, all with elongate body, the jaws with equal teeth in a single row, and teeth also on vomer, palatines and tongue.

A few pages earlier (page 343) in the very same memoir, occurs a list of species of *Selar*, beginning with "*Trachurus trachurus* CV." and including *torvus* Jenyns, *boops* CV., *macrurus*, *hasselti*, *kuhli*, *brevis* and *malam* Bleeker, *para* CV., *djeddaba* Rüppell, *novae-guineae* and *microchir* CV.

If we recognize page priority, and at the same time respect Bleeker's later adopted rule of regarding the first species mentioned as type, *trachurus* must be chosen as such, and *Selar* become a synonym of *Trachurus* Rafinesque.

If we recognize page priority, and take the species in the above list first chosen as type by a later reviser we have the following: Jordan & Evermann, 1896, *Caranx boops* CV.; Jordan, 1919, (Genera of Fishes) *Selar hasselti*, Bleeker; Fowler, 1920, *Caranx boops* CV.

If we disregard page priority, we may take as type the first species actually named in connection with the generic description, *Caranx plumieri* CV. Or, following the "first reviser" rule, we must take *Caranx*

boops. As both *plumieri* (= *crumenophthalmus*) and *boops* belong to the Genus *Trachurops* Gill, the name *Selar*, as Fowler has indicated, would replace *Trachurops*.

In any event, *hasselti* can not be taken as type of *Selar* and the group to which it belongs must, if recognized, find a new name.

I have referred the matter of *Selar* to our commission and quote a letter from the secretery which I accept as conclusive. In this view *Selar* replaces *Trachurops* Gill.

"1. Referring again to your letter of July 22nd, in regard to *Selar*, I have looked up the original reference by Bleeker, 1851. If it can not be shown that Bleeker was using the 'first species rule' at this time, and that later he did not designate type, it seems to me obvious that as you and Evermann first designated the type in 1896a, p. 916, that your type-designation *boops* stands unchallenged.

"2. Were I ruling on the 'first species rule' I would take *Selar trachurus* as the type; but it is not clear to me that the 'first species rule' applies in this case. [Signed] C. W. Stiles."

DAVID STARR JORDAN,
Stanford University, Calif.

PURPLE SALAMANDER

The Purple Salamander, *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus* (Green), is one of the rarest salamanders of Pennsylvania. Any information as to its feeding habits should be of interest even though based on but a single observation as in the present instance.

On March 21 of this year, an adult purple salamander, measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in total length, was captured under a log lying near the edge of a brook in Castle Shannon, Alleghany County, Pennsylvania. It is difficult to say if this habitat is typical of the species. We have examined specimens captured in a spring and one taken from a rather deep lake.